

NCA Convention Submission Opportunities

The National Communication Association offers two pathways for presenting at the Annual Convention:

1. **Submission through Units:** Submit your work to directly to NCA units (divisions, caucuses, affiliates, student organizations, etc.). These submissions are reviewed by the unit and programmed into their schedule.
2. **Direct Submission to Special Series:** Submit directly to specialized presentation formats with dedicated planners and unique session structures.

Consult the specific unit or special series call for submissions for detailed guidelines, requirements, and to confirm which submission types are accepted.

Section 1: Submission Types for Units

The following submission types are available when submitting through NCA units. Each unit determines which submission types they accept—check their individual calls for submissions.

Individual Submissions

Extended Abstract

An incomplete paper submitted directly by an author(s) for consideration and not part of a pre-conceived paper sessions. Submissions are reviewed individually. Unit planners then group abstracts into sessions, either as works-in-progress sessions or with completed papers. Read the specific call for submissions for the unit to which you are submitting to determine if the abstract will be programmed into a work-in-process session or if it is expected that the paper be completed by the Annual Convention for presentation.

Individual Paper

A paper submitted directly by an author(s) for consideration as an individual paper and not as part of a pre-conceived (pre-formed) paper session. Papers are reviewed individually. Sometimes referred to as competitive papers. Unit planners then group papers into paper sessions.

Individual Performance

A performance submitted directly by the performer(s) for consideration as a single performance and not part of a pre-conceived performance session. Performances are reviewed individually. Unit planners then group individual performances into performance sessions. If a single performance is approximately 1 hour in length, or more, it should be submitted as a performance session.

Individual Film

A film submitted directly by the film maker(s) for consideration as single film and not part of a pre-conceived film session. Films are reviewed individually. Unit planners then group individual films into film session. If a single film is approximately 1 hour in length, or more, it should be submitted as a film session.

Individual Media

A media work (including but not limited to digital art, interactive installations, podcasts, virtual reality experiences, multimedia projects, or web-based works) submitted directly by the creator(s) for consideration as a single media work and not part of a pre-conceived media session. Media works are reviewed individually. Unit planners then group individual media submissions into media sessions. If a single media work requires approximately 1 hour or more for presentation and discussion, it should be submitted as a media session.

Scholar to Scholar (Posters)

An individual paper submitted directly by an author(s) that is indicated by the author as appropriate for an interactive poster-style presentation format. Papers are forwarded to Scholar to Scholar planners by the original unit planners. Scholar to Scholar sessions are highly interactive, encouraging dialogue and discussion about research results and teaching ideas in a poster session format. Presenters share their ideas one-on-one with session attendees using poster displays, digital presentations, or other interactive media. Wandering Scholars (designated respondents) circulate throughout the session to engage presenters and provide feedback on projects. Scholar to Scholar submissions are reviewed individually and, if accepted, are arranged alphabetically by first author's last name within the session.

Session Submissions

Film Session

A pre-conceived and complete session of film(s), no more than 1 hour and 15 min in length, that includes a chair(s), respondent(s) (optional), and film maker(s). The film(s) are not submitted or reviewed individually; the entire film session is reviewed for consideration as a whole.

Media Session

A media session is submitted as a pre-conceived and complete session of media work(s), no more than 1 hour and 15 minutes in length, that includes a chair(s), respondent(s) (optional), and media creator(s). The media work(s) are not submitted or reviewed individually; the entire media session is reviewed for consideration as a whole.

Media sessions may include single or multiple works (including but not limited to digital art, interactive installations, podcasts, virtual reality experiences, multimedia projects, or web-based works).

Paper Session

A pre-conceived and complete session of papers. The papers are not submitted or reviewed individually and are not submitted by the author(s) but rather by the person submitting the paper session. The entire paper session is reviewed for consideration as a whole. Paper sessions must include chair(s), respondent(s) are optional.

Performance Session

A single performance or a group of performances that total no more than 1 hour and 15 min in length. Performance sessions are submitted as a pre-conceived and complete session with a performer(s), chair(s) and respondent (optional). The performance session is reviewed for consideration as a whole.

Panel Discussion Submissions

A pre-conceived and complete session of presenters discussing a topic/issue. There are no papers presented at a panel discussion.

Section 2: Special Series with Direct Submission

The following special series have their own dedicated calls for submissions and submission processes. These are NOT submitted through units. Each series has a dedicated planner who manages the review process and session programming. Watch for individual calls for submissions for each series.

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S.)

Submission Process: Submit directly to the G.I.F.T.S.

Description: An activity, assignment, project, game, or simulation that you have used in the classroom successfully. The activity should address specific communication theory(s), concept(s), skill(s) or learning objective(s) appropriate to the communication discipline at the college classroom level. Submissions are reviewed individually and should be submitted as an "Individual Paper" submission type to G.I.F.T.S.

Session Format: Round robin session. Each accepted submission is assigned to a roundtable where submitters present their ideas to attendees. Each round lasts approximately 7 minutes, after which attendees rotate to the next table.

Research in Progress Roundtables

Submission Process: Submit directly to the Research in Progress Roundtables series

Description: Designed for works in progress, typically submitted by students, though not exclusively. Submitters provide extended abstracts, and the planner groups approximately six similar submissions at each table. A chair facilitates discussion at each table, where submitters share their current progress and receive advice on advancing the project from the chair and other submitters.

Session Format: Roundtable discussions with 10-15 tables per session. Only those who submitted and were accepted participate; this session is not open to all attendees.

Pre-conferences

Submission Process: Submit directly to the Pre-conferences series

Description: Sessions held on the Wednesday before the convention begins. Pre-conferences can be either full day or half day sessions.

Session Format: Full day or half day sessions on Wednesday

Registration Fee: Requires a separate fee from convention registration

Short Courses

Submission Process: Submit directly to the Short Courses series (not through units)

Description: Double sessions (2.5 hours) held during the convention (Thursday to Saturday) that focus on education and training. Topics align with continuing education, though NCA does not offer credits or certifications. Each course must have clearly defined learning outcomes that participants can achieve by the end of the session.

Session Format: 2.5-hour sessions during regular convention days

Registration Fee: Requires a separate fee from convention registration

For More Information

For detailed submission guidelines, requirements, and deadlines:

- **Unit submissions (Section 1):** Consult individual division, interest group, or affiliate calls for submissions
- **Special series (Section 2):** Watch for dedicated calls for submissions for each series
- **General questions:** Contact the NCA Convention Team at convention@natcom.org